

# Akala - Behind My Painted Smile Lyrics

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[Verse 1: Akala]

Behind my painted smile when all the revolutionary noise is nothing but a lost little boy  
Confused and insecure, arrogant and oversure  
An egotistical prick so come on please praise me more  
It's great that my music bettered you but I contemplate murder every day so don't put me on a pedestal  
Plus truly, just the vehicle the music just runs through me  
In my better moments I could let the universe use me

[Lowkey]

Behind my smile there's generations of pain, self-hatred, ingrained miseducated my brain  
Decimated the place where my dead relations were slain  
Not just physically but mentally penetrated our veins  
What you got inside hasn't gotta die once it can die a lot of times, that I promise my son  
Analyse every song that I've done - tryna fight colonialism with a colonised tongue

[Hook]

Here I stand again  
Living in sin  
Caught up, in the dream  
Behind the painted smile

[Akala Verse:2]

Behind my painted smile is the most painful grimace  
This mental prison I live in cause I am so conditioned  
By my privilege, what a strange contradiction  
To grow up brown in Britain and know that your living  
Was paid for by a carcass that resembles yours  
Born in the heart of the empire  
You're worth more than I was just like you  
But less than the native ones, raised by my mum but in this world I am a father's son

[Lowkey]

Behind my painted smile, a very flawed human being  
Done many things that I regret and never knew the reason  
What do you believe in, truth or freedom or are you deceiving?  
I don't wanna die in prostration to European's  
They say the answer is within you and nowhere else  
Understand the vision man on a mission to know himself  
This is for my co-defendants no retreat and no surrender  
You probably think that we don't remember Ota Benga

[Hook]

[Akala verse:3]

The smile is painted on my face is tainted by a frown  
Picture in the pocket's of blood that decorate the town  
Trigger jam bullets sung and guns hum

Then everyone that's dead was somebody's someone

[Lowkey]

Behind my painted smile I feel like a naked child  
Maybe rapping ain't for now cos my passion is fading out  
Up early though I search and roam along this dirty road  
Just another traveller taking a long journey home

[Akala]

All this talk of intervention to protect on what is the intention  
Same as it ever was the colonial past and present  
And more respect for most of the right wingers  
Than the paternalistic patronising liberal bigot

[Lowkey]

Our way of life is so divine, we should intervene  
Select war and export the British dream  
Behind cinema screens there's much that isn't seen  
George Clooney war movies never bring our children peace

[Akala]

Yo fam, you ever wake up and just feel like fucking off, and never coming back to this place and just cutting off?

[Lowkey]

All the time, almost did last year the trouble was the bloody cops had me running in and out the bloody dock

[Akala]

I been there brother, though I don't promote it in this rap shit, I ain't a stranger to having my back on their blue plastic

[Lowkey]

Can't keep us captive

[Akala]

We see the tactics

[Lowkey]

To keep us passive

[Akala]

We beat the fascists

[Lowkey]

Release the classics

[Akala & Lowkey]

And reach the masses!

[Hook]x2

